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EXAMINER

RICHER, AARON M

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/988,420	Applicant(s) CAKE ET AL.	
	Examiner Aaron M. Richer	Art Unit 2628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 and 45-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 and 45-52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 and 45-52 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 10-18, 20, 45-49, and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rogers (U.S. Patent 5,497,500) in view of Cismas (U.S. Patent 6,996,799).

4. As to claims 1, 14, and 45, Rogers discloses a method for generating a graphical representation of a processing web of an oscilloscope for implementation and control of the oscilloscope (col. 3, lines 25-39; col. 10, lines 25-30; the invention is for controlling an instrument, one of which can be an oscilloscope), comprising:

determining a first processing element of said processing web corresponding to a first processing apparatus of the oscilloscope for processing a signal (fig. 22; a number of processing elements are shown);

placing a first processing element in a particular location based at least in part upon its function and various inputs to and outputs from said first processing element

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(fig. 19a-k; fig. 22-25; fig. 47-122; col. 26, line 22-col. 27, line 40; a number of elements placed by a user or that can be placed by a user are shown);

determining a second processing element of said processing web corresponding to a second processing apparatus of the oscilloscope for processing a signal (fig. 22; a number of processing elements are shown);

placing said second processing element in a particular location downstream from said first processing element based at least in part upon its function, various inputs to and outputs from said second processing element, and a relationship between said second processing element and said first processing element (fig. 19a-k; fig. 22-25; fig. 47-122; col. 26, line 22-col. 27, line 40; a number of elements placed by a user or that can be placed by a user are shown), each of said first and second processing elements adapted to receive a waveform signal, to process the received waveform signal, and to forward the processed waveform signal to a downstream processing element (fig. 111, fig. 112a-c; the invention clearly processes waveforms from one element to another; also see fig. 19k, "wave" portion);

graphically connecting said first processing element to second processing element indicating a flow of data therebetween (fig. 19a-k; fig. 22-25; fig. 47-122; col. 26, line 22-col. 27, line 40; a number of elements placed by a user or that can be placed by a user are shown) wherein said first processing element is a waveform acquisition processing element (fig. 19k, see "wave" portion);

and wherein said second processing element is a display processing element (fig. 22, see "response graph").

Rogers does not disclose a first processing element *forwarding the processed waveform signal in response to a request to receive the processed waveform signal passed upstream from a second processing element*. Cismas, however, discloses a simulation program with upstream nodes that wait for downstream nodes to send a request signal, indicative of a downstream node's readiness, before sending data to a downstream node (col. 4, lines 18-33; col. 5, lines 20-32; col. 20, lines 34-48). Note that the data in Cismas is not limited to a particular type of data. Instead, one would expect that this technique could be applied to many different types of data, such as the waveforms of Rogers. One skilled in the art would recognize that given an input of waveforms, the technique of Cismas would have worked predictably, just as it does for generic "data". In other words, using this combined technique, an upstream node would wait for a downstream node's request before passing on waveform data. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify Rogers to program an upstream node to wait for a downstream node's request because applying such a technique to the waveforms of Rogers would yield predictable results according to Cismas.

5. As to claims 2 and 3, Rogers discloses a connecting step connecting an output pin of said first element to an input pin of said second element, using a line (fig. 19a-k, fig. 22; lines are clearly used to connect a first element output to a second element input).

6. As to claim 10, Rogers discloses a method wherein said first processing element is updated at a faster rate and said second processing element is updated at a slower rate (col. 47, line 53-col. 48, line 5; a function waiting on another function is disclosed).

7. As to claim 11, Rogers discloses a method wherein said update of said first processing element and update of said second processing element are synchronized (col. 47, line 53-col. 48, line 5; a synchronization method for functions waiting on other functions is disclosed).

8. As to claim 12, Rogers discloses a method wherein said update of said first and second processing elements is controlled by an update processing element (col. 47, line 53-col. 48, line 5; the execution subsystem which provides a "wake up" to another function reads on an "update processing element").

9. As to claim 13, Rogers discloses a method wherein a viewing object may be placed at a location on the graphical representation to see a current, live output at that location (col. 39, lines 19-20; a "real time chart" option is given in a menu for configuration of graphical objects).

10. As to claims 15 and 46, Rogers discloses determining a third processing element of said processing web corresponding to a third processing apparatus of the oscilloscope for processing a signal;

and placing said third processing element in a particular location downstream from said first processing element and upstream from said second processing element based at least in part upon its function in said processing web, various inputs to and outputs from said second processing element, and a relationship between said third processing element and said first and second processing elements so that the signal processed by the first processing apparatus is forwarded to the third processing

apparatus, and the signal processed by the second processing apparatus is forwarded to the third processing apparatus;

wherein said third processing element performs an intermediate processing step between said first processing element and said second processing element (fig. 19a-k; fig. 22-25; fig. 47-122; col. 26, line 22-col. 27, line 40; a number of intermediate processing elements with multiple inputs are disclosed).

See the rejection to claim 1 for disclosure of processing elements sending requests for signals to elements upstream from them.

11. As to claims 16 and 47, Rogers discloses determining a third processing element of said processing web corresponding to a third processing apparatus of the oscilloscope for processing a signal;

and placing said third processing element in a particular location based at least in part upon its function in said processing web, various inputs to and outputs from said second processing element, and a relationship between said third processing element and said first and second processing elements so that the signal processed by the first processing apparatus is forwarded to the third processing apparatus, and the signal processed by the second processing apparatus is forwarded to the third processing apparatus (fig. 19a-k; fig. 22-25; fig. 47-122; col. 26, line 22-col. 27, line 40; a number of processing elements with multiple inputs are disclosed);

Rogers does not disclose a method wherein said third processing element is a static memory input. However, Official notice has been taken of the fact that storing output of processing elements in static memory is well-known in the art (see MPEP

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2144.03). It is also noted that given the large amount of functions already disclosed by Rogers, including display functions and processing functions, and the fact that Rogers does store outputs in memory, it would not be difficult to add a graphical representation of static memory to the other graphical representations disclosed by Rogers. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify Rogers to include a static memory input in a graphical representation in order to allow a user to more easily store data in memory.

See the rejection to claim 1 for disclosure of processing elements sending requests for signals to elements upstream from them.

12. As to claims 17 and 48, Rogers discloses determining a third processing element of said processing web corresponding to a third processing apparatus of the oscilloscope for processing a signal;

and placing said third processing element in a particular location based at least in part upon its function in said processing web, various inputs to and outputs from said second processing element, and a relationship between said third processing element and said first and second processing elements so that the signal processed by the first processing apparatus is forwarded to the third processing apparatus, and the signal processed by the second processing apparatus is forwarded to the third processing apparatus;

wherein said third processing element is a display trace output including at least one processing function (fig. 121).

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See the rejection to claim 1 for disclosure of processing elements sending requests for signals to elements upstream from them.

13. As to claims 18 and 49, Rogers discloses determining a third processing element of said processing web corresponding to a third processing apparatus of the oscilloscope for processing a signal;

and placing said third processing element in a particular location based at least in part upon its function in said processing web, various inputs to and outputs from said second processing element, and a relationship between said third processing element and said first and second processing elements so that the signal processed by the first processing apparatus is forwarded to the third processing apparatus, and the signal processed by the second processing apparatus is forwarded to the third processing apparatus;

wherein said third processing element is a parameter output (col. 39, lines 19-20; a real time chart reads on a parameter output).

See the rejection to claim 1 for disclosure of processing elements sending requests for signals to elements upstream from them.

14. As to claims 20 and 51, Rogers discloses a method wherein each of said first and second processing elements includes an indication of the number of inputs and outputs thereof (fig. 22, fig. 104, etc., every diagram with elements includes a number of input and output pins).

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15. Claims 4-9, 19, 21, 50 and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rogers in view of Cismas and further in view of Zink (U.S. Patent 6,738,964).

16. As to claim 4, as best interpreted, neither Rogers nor Cismas expressly discloses a line drawn to include a plurality of designations based upon a type of data being carried thereon. Zink, however, discloses different colors used for different types of data being carried on wires (col. 8, lines 26-37). The motivation for this is to illustrate the flow of both data and control information (col. 8, lines 26-37). It is further noted that much like the Rogers reference, the Zink reference is concerned with graphically representing a system for processing signals (col. 2, lines 31-44). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify Rogers and Cismas to designate a type of data being carried on a wire in order to illustrate the difference between data and control information as taught by Zink.

17. As to claim 5, as best interpreted, Zink discloses a method wherein said plurality of designations are colors (col. 8, lines 26-37).

18. As to claim 6, Zink discloses a method wherein said at least one pin of said first processing element and said at least one pin of said second processing element are coded based upon a type of data to output therefrom, or received thereby, respectively (fig. 9, circles are used by one type, triangles are used by another type).

19. As to claim 7, Zink discloses a method wherein said coding is by color (col. 8, lines 26-37; the wires coming out of the pins are of different colors, which effectively means that the pins themselves are coded by color as well).

20. As to claim 8, Zink discloses a method wherein said coding is by symbol (fig. 9, circles are used by one type, triangles are used by another type).

21. As to claim 9, Zink discloses a method wherein said coding is by graphical designation (fig. 9, circles are used by one type, triangles are used by another type; this reads on a graphical designation).

22. As to claims 19 and 50, Zink discloses a method wherein said connection between said first processing element and said second processing element is provided in a color indicative of the type of data flowing therebetween (col. 8, lines 26-37).

Motivation for combining the Zink, Rogers, and Cismas references can be found in the rejection of claim 4.

23. As to claims 21 and 52, Zink discloses a method wherein said inputs and outputs are provided in a color indicative of the type of data to be received or output thereon (col. 8, lines 26-37; the wires coming out of the pins are of different colors, which effectively means that the pins themselves are coded by color as well). Motivation for combining the Zink, Rogers, and Cismas references can be found in the rejection of claim 4.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M. Richer whose telephone number is (571) 272-7790. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 8:30AM-5:00PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kee Tung can be reached on (571) 272-7794. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AMR
10/30/07



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER